

REMARKS

In the restriction requirement of January 31, 2006 and the office action of August 18, 2006, the claims were restricted to the combination of a bearing having a particular material. Applicant has therefore drafted new claims which are directed towards this elected invention.

Applicant has amended claim 4 to include the limitations of claim 1, and has amended various claims to correct antecedent basis and otherwise ensure proper claim structure.

The claims distinguish over the prior art. The claims require a bearing which includes both a rolling element and a race which include diamond or boron nitride. It is noted that the prior art does not teach a roller bearing as now claimed in the amended claims. Hall et al. teaches a bearing with diamond pads which are fixed in position on a cone and which slide across another mating cone. No rolling element is present in the bearing.

Fridez et al. teaches a roller element with a diamond surface (column 4 line 8), but teaches the diamond coated balls being used with conventional (typically steel) bearing races to allow dry (un lubricated) operation (column 4 lines 12-15). Similarly, FIG. 4 shows a cylindrical bearing element, but teaches that the bearing element is used in a steel sleeve (column 4 lines 15-18). The resultant bearing allows for high speeds and dry (un lubricated) operation. Thus, Fridez et al. teaches superhard roller elements such as balls or cylinders, but teaches that these roller elements are to be used with conventional steel sleeves or races. Fridez teaches that such a combination allows for high speeds and dry operation of the bearing. Thus, one of skill in the art of bearing manufacture would not modify Fridez to achieve the presently claimed invention as such is inconsistent with the teachings of Fridez.

It is believed that the application is in condition for allowance.

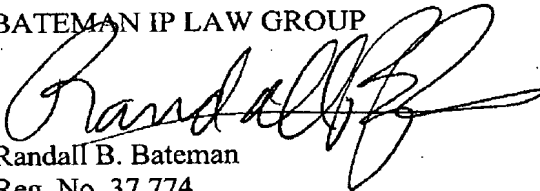
Please note the new attorney docket number, 3768:DIMC.CN and the new attorney contact address and customer number. Please associate the application with the customer number 27472 and direct all future correspondence to the address for that customer number.

It is believed that no fees are necessary for the above amendment as the number of claims are fewer than previously paid for. The fees necessary for the revival of the present application are being paid concurrently with the filing of the present amendment.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized during the entire pendency of this application to credit any overpayment and debit any amount owing, including fees for extensions of time, to Deposit Account No. 50-2720.

Sincerely,

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